

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of choosing an optimal candidate value to be used for matching a block from a first image with an area from a second image, the method comprising:
 - (a) making a set of candidate values for determining an area to be matched from the second image,
 - (b) for each candidate value from the set determining an area to be matched from the second image, based on said candidate value matching the block from the first image with this area and calculating a matching error, and
 - (c) choosing the optimal candidate value from the set based on the calculated matching errors, wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are repeated for adjacent blocks of the first image when there is a change of value of the chosen optimal candidate value from a previous repetition, using a comparison of a rise of the attendant matching error to a predetermined criterion.
2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined criterion is a percentage of the matching error of the chosen optimal candidate value.
3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rise is found by determining an inclination of a curve belonging to a function of matching error plotted against candidate value.
4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the predetermined criterion is a maximum for the inclination of this curve

5. (Currently amended) A system for choosing an optimal candidate value to be used for matching a block from a first image with an area from a second image, the system comprising:

- a collector which is arranged for making a set of candidate values for determining an area to be matched from the second image,
- a matcher which is arranged for determining for each candidate value from the set based on said candidate value an area to be matched from the second image, matching the block from the first image with this area and calculating a matching area, and
- a selector which is arranged for choosing the optimal candidate value from the set based on the calculated matching errors, wherein the system is arranged for repeating the selection of an optimal candidate value for adjacent blocks when there is a change of the value of the chosen optimal candidate value for a particular block of a particular repetition using a comparison of a rise of the attendant matching error to a predetermined criterion, ~~and is arranged for activating the collector, the matcher and the selector in that case.~~

6. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the predetermined criterion is a percentage of the matching error of the chosen optimal candidate value.

7. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the system is arranged for determining said rise by determining an inclination of the curve belonging to a function of matching error plotted against candidate value.

8. (Currently amended) [[A]] The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the predetermined criterion is a maximum for the inclination of this curve

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus for processing a video signal that comprises a variety of images, including:

- a system comprising:
- a collector which is arranged for making a set of candidate values for determining an area to be matched from the second image,
- a matcher which is arranged for determining for each candidate value from the set based on said candidate value an area to be matched from the second image, matching the block from the first image with this area and calculating a matching area, and
- a selector which is arranged for choosing the optimal candidate value from the set based on the calculated matching errors, wherein the system is arranged for repeating the selection of an optimal candidate value for adjacent blocks when there is a change of the value of the chosen optimal candidate value for a particular block of a particular repetition using a comparison of a rise of the attendant matching error to a predetermined criterion,
- ~~as claimed in claim 5, 6, 7 or 8 for choosing an optimal candidate value to be used for matching a block from a first image with an area from a second image, the system being arranged for choosing optimal candidate values for blocks from the images from said variety, and~~
- an image processor for processing the video signal (40) to obtain an enhanced video signal based on the obtained optimal candidate values as determined by said system.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the apparatus further includes a display system for displaying the enhanced video signal.